



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

West Fork Ranger District

6735 West Fork Rd.  
Darby, MT 59829  
406-821-3269

**RECEIVED**

File Code: 1950

Date: July 22, 2008

**JUL 24 2008**

Ravalli County Commissioners

Dear Interested Public,

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The West Fork Ranger District proposes to reauthorize grazing on the Coal Creek Grazing Allotment located south of Painted Rocks Lake and southwest of Darby on the Bitterroot National Forest. Livestock are currently grazing on suitable rangelands within this allotment and the proposal is to continue livestock grazing while maintaining or improving existing resource conditions.

The Coal Creek Grazing Allotment contains 3,931 National Forest acres. Twenty five cow/calf pairs are permitted on the allotment from June 1 through September 30. The proposed action continues the current grazing level and management with no changes. Field inspections show full compliance with Forest Plan grazing objectives and standards. Attached is a map showing the allotment location.

I will determine whether or not the decision may be categorically excluded from further analysis following a review of specialist reports, biological evaluations/assessments, public comments, and other pertinent analyses. If the allotment qualifies for a categorical exclusion, it is my intention to issue a Decision Memo for the Coal Creek allotment under the authority granted the Forest Service by the U.S. Congress in Section 339 of the FY 2005 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 108-447). Decisions issued under this authority are not appealable under 36 CFR 215. Permittees may appeal this decision under 36 CFR 251.

Comments should include the information required pursuant to 36 CFR 215-6.9a)(3) as published in the Federal Register on March 22, 2005. Send your written comments to: Dave Campbell, District Ranger, West Fork Ranger District at 6735 West Fork Road, Darby, MT 59829. Comments should be received by close of business August 29, 2008.

For further information concerning this proposal, please contact Gil Gale or Diane Bessler-Hackett at the Sula Ranger District, 7338 Highway 93 S, Sula, MT 59871 or by phone at 406-821-3201.

Sincerely,

DAVID M. CAMPBELL  
District Ranger





